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Title: Need to declare remunerative Minimum Support Price for wheat in order to augment the production of wheat in the country.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY (MATHURA): While the MSP of several Rabi crops has been increased this year, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended freezing MSP for wheat at last year's level. Wheat is a major component of our PDS and procurement shapes the market for the foodgrain. Given the increased cost of living in rural areas, the price of diesel and fertilizers, farmers are looking to the Government for relief.

Inadequate storage and a highly controlled export policy has resulted in rotting of wheat. Storage of grain in excess of buffer norms is economically and socially undesirable and works as a disincentive for the Government to procure in large quantities or pay a 'high' price for wheat. If the objective to freeze MSP for wheat is to encourage crop diversification, then instead of disincentivising wheat production, a positive bias in favour of other crops through policy measures could be the better approach. I urge upon the Government to declare a remunerative MSP for wheat to address the economic stresses faced by the rural households, inflationary input costs, and ensures that the production of wheat is not hampered.